

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A machine body comprising:
a housing;
an upper body rotatably connected to the housing via a joint axle; and
a hinge comprising:
a support shaft connected to the upper body; and
a support block rotatably connected to the housing via a rotation axle, the support block defining a hole, the support shaft passing through the hole and capable of moving through the hole while a supporting force caused by friction between the support shaft and the support block generates a moment to the joint axle larger than a moment to the joint axle generated by a weight of the upper body such that the supporting force is substantially the same at any of a range of angles, wherein the upper body is capable of being statically positioned at any of the range of angles relative to the housing due to friction between the support block and the support shaft.
2. **(Canceled)**
3. **(Previously Presented)** The machine body of claim 1 wherein the hole comprises a cylindrical hole and the support shaft comprises a cylindrical shaft.
4. **(Original)** The machine body of claim 1 wherein the area of the cross section of the support shaft is constant over the length of the support shaft.
5. **(Original)** The machine body of claim 1 wherein the material of the support block comprises rubber.

6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Original)** The machine body of claim 1 wherein at least one section of the support shaft tightly fits the support block.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The machine body of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a multi-function peripheral.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The machine body of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a scanner.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The machine body of claim 5, wherein the material of the support block comprises polyurethane rubber.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The machine body of claim 1, wherein the support shaft comprises a cylindrical shaft and wherein the hole comprises a cylindrical hole.

12-24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus, comprising:
means for coupling an upper body to a housing, wherein said means for coupling comprises:

a support shaft;

means for connecting the support shaft to the upper body, [[and]]

means for supporting the support shaft in a sliding manner, said means for supporting interfacing with the housing, and said support shaft and means for supporting the support shaft generating a moment greater than a moment generated by a weight of the upper body, wherein the upper body is capable of being statically positioned at any of a range of angles relative to the housing due to a frictional relationship defined by the means for supporting and the support shaft; and

a rotation axle rotatably connecting the means for supporting to the housing.

26. **(Canceled)**

27. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the means for supporting the support shaft comprises a support block that defines a straight hole and the support shaft comprises a straight shaft.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 27, wherein means for supporting the support shaft comprises a support block that defines a straight cylindrical hole and the support shaft [[s]]comprises a straight cylindrical shaft.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the area of the cross section of the support shaft is constant over the length of the support shaft.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the means for supporting the support shaft comprises a support block that comprises rubber.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the means for supporting the support shaft comprises a support block that comprises polyurethane rubber.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the apparatus comprises a multi-function peripheral.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the apparatus comprises a scanner.

34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The machine body of claim 1, further comprising A~~
machine body comprising:

a housing;

an upper body rotatably connected to the housing via a joint axle; and

a hinge comprising:

a support shaft connected to the upper body;

a support block rotatably connected to the housing, the support block defining a hole, the support shaft passing through the hole and capable of moving through the hole while a supporting force caused by friction between the support shaft and the support block generates a moment to the joint axle larger than a moment to the joint axle generated by a weight of the upper body such that the supporting force is substantially the same at any of a range of angles, wherein the upper body is capable of being statically positioned at any of the range of angles relative to the housing due to friction between the support block and the support shaft; and

a rotation axle to which the support block is attached, the support block being connected to the housing by way of the rotation axle such that the support block is able to rotate, relative to the housing, about the rotation axle.

36. **(Currently Amended)** A machine body comprising:

a housing;

a joint axle attached to the housing;

an upper body attached to the joint axle such that the position of the upper body relative to the housing is adjustable; and

a hinge comprising:

a support shaft connected to the upper body;

a support block within which the support shaft is slidably received; and

a rotation axle attached to the support block and rotatably connected to the housing such that the support block is rotatable with respect to the housing such that pivoting of the upper body about the joint axle causes translational movement of the support shaft relative to the support block, [[the]] wherein the upper body is capable of being positioned at any of a range of angles relative to the housing due to a frictional relationship defined by the means for supporting and the support shaft.

37. **(Currently Amended)** A machine body comprising:
a housing;
an upper body rotatably connected to the housing; and
a hinge comprising:
a support shaft connected to the upper body; and
a support block rotatably connected to the housing via a rotation axle, the support block defining a hole, the support shaft passing through the hole and capable of moving through the hole while a supporting force between the support shaft and the support block generates a moment to the joint axle larger than a moment to the joint axle generated by a weight of the upper body such that the supporting force is substantially the same at any of a range of angles, wherein the upper body is capable of being statically positioned at any of the range of angles relative to the housing without relying on an elastic restorative force applied to the hinge.
38. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus, comprising:
means for coupling an upper body to a housing, wherein said means for coupling comprises:
a support shaft;
means for connecting the support shaft to the upper body; and
means for supporting the support shaft in a sliding manner, said means for supporting ~~interfacing with~~ rotatably mounted to the housing via a rotation axle, and said support shaft and means for supporting the support shaft generating a moment greater than a moment generated by a weight of the upper body wherein the upper body is capable of being statically positioned at any of a range of angles relative to the housing without relying on an elastic restorative force applied to the means for coupling an upper body to a housing.